

# COLORADO SPRINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

## Division of the Fire Marshal

### Administrative Ruling/Interpretation 2009-2

**Subject:** Medical Gas Systems for Veterinary Clinics

**Effective:** June 1, 2009

**Code Reference:** 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) Chapter 30, Section 3006, as amended

#### Description of Problem:

The IFC requires veterinary clinics to comply with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 99, Standard for Health Care Facilities. The current edition of NFPA 99 does not identify the system "Level" design criteria for medical gas and vacuum systems used within said clinics (i.e., medical gas and vacuum systems based on Level 1, 2, 3 piped gas and vacuum systems).

The appropriate level medical gas system is needed to describe the proper design and installation requirements on construction documents and plans. The lack of an identified medical gas system level on design plans and the absence of professional certifications of installers have resulted in inconsistent and/or deficient medical gas system installations at veterinary clinics.

#### Decision:

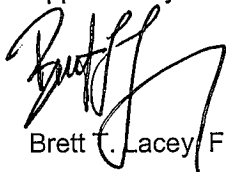
To guide designers and installers, a medical gas system level has been designated based on the most common medical gas in use and storage. Most veterinary clinics limit their medical gas systems to oxygen supply, therefore it is appropriate to assign a Level 3 medical gas system to veterinary clinics. The following policy revisions have been established for the purpose of regulating the above:

- Where containers of medical gases are limited to oxygen supply, and in quantities greater or less than the permit amounts located inside or outside buildings, veterinary clinics shall comply with and design to the current NFPA 99 Standard, and a minimum "Level 3 – Medical Gas Supply, Piped Medical Gas and Vacuum System." A higher level design may be required if the system includes additional medical gases.
- Medical gas systems shall be designed by a licensed engineer and/or architect of record and comply with the fire code, the current NFPA 99 Standard, and all appropriate industry standards, codes, regulations and practices. Medical gas systems shall be installed, inspected, verified and maintained by personnel certified to an American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) Professional Standard.

The Division of the Fire Marshal reserves the right to modify or delete any portion of this policy as necessary for the safe design and installation of medical gas systems.

All mandated changes will be provided in writing so as to inform all affected parties and individuals.

Approved by:



Brett T. Lacey, Fire Marshal